

Mimulus Memo

California Native Plant Society — Kern County Chapter
May 2011

Glenn Harris Talks about Sierra Crest Trail

Join us **Tuesday, May 17th**
at our May meeting (see below for
meeting place & times).

Glenn Harris from BLM, Ridgecrest will be speaking to us about the Sierra Crest Trail. We will learn what plants have been listed (found and verified) there; what might be there - still to be discovered; and what areas are not yet even explored! This presentation ties in with our (most likely) June 7th and 8th overnight Field Trip, which he is inviting us to attend. Glenn will be leading people from the BLM, as well as from our chapter up into the high country. During the next few weeks we will post more specifics on our chapter website: www.kerncnps.org - check there for information. Start working back into shape. Please email Lucy Clark, lucyg391@gmail.com if you are interested in attending. That way, we can send out email notices for you to check the website as info becomes available.

Come at 6PM for Plant Identification/ Keying!

As a reminder, always check the website to confirm if there are last-minute location changes, or other notices. We meet on the third Tuesday of most months, from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Meetings are most often at 1300 17th Street, at the Superintendent of Schools Building (1st Floor, with the tables). Our alternate meeting location is the University Square Building, at 2000 "K" Street. This building also has parking on the back side, and we meet on the 1st floor, too. Refreshments are served!

Dorie G.



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Wildflower Show a Success!

Our second ever Wildflower Show appeared to be a great success! Second, you ask? Yes, as we were setting up the show, Ellen Cypher informed us that about 25 years ago, she and Randi McCormick presented a Wildflower Show at CALM. This year we were at the Beale Library's atrium, which received many compliments as our setting. About 185 adults and children came through to view Kern's wildflowers. 144 species in 39 families were collected by Laura Stockton, Richard Spjut, Denis Kearns, Debby Kroeger, Clyde Golden, Dorie Giragosian, Lucy Clark, and Ellen Cypher. Many thanks to these people who traveled far and wide, and to their gardens, to find this gorgeous bounty!

We also appreciate all of the help of Jesus Rosendo and his mother, Dominga Rosendo, Dorie, Ellen, Laura, Clyde, Lucy, and Dinah Campbell in setting up, many of those in taking down and toting all out of the library by 6pm! Dinah created a sign for the entrance to the library, and Debby created word and art activities for children, which were very well received by the kids, as well as some adults! Please go to www.kerncnps.org to see photos of cute kids in cute flower crowns! Many thanks to all who helped, and to those who came to visit Kern's wildflowers.

I think we did ourselves proud with this effort, as well as learned things to improve our presentation next time. We hope it will be sooner than 25 years in the future!

Lucy Clark

Also In This Issue

Natives of the San Joaquin Valley Field Trip	2
EVENTS & FIELD TRIPS	5
Chapter Council Meeting	6
Contact Info	6
Carrizo Plain N.M. Field Trip	7
Treasure Hunt	9
CNPS Mission & Vision	10

Natives of the San Joaquin Valley Field Trip Memories

by Don & Yvonne Turkal

April 2 2011: Stephen Laymon, PhD is Project Manager at the BLM Atwell Island and Pam Williams, PhD is Biologist at the Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges. Both Stephen and Pam lead us to some spectacular natives of the San Joaquin Valley even though it began with the roads being closed – they knew their way AROUND the closed road.

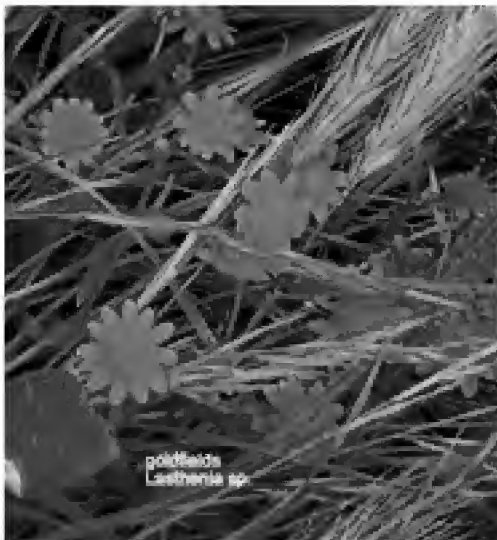


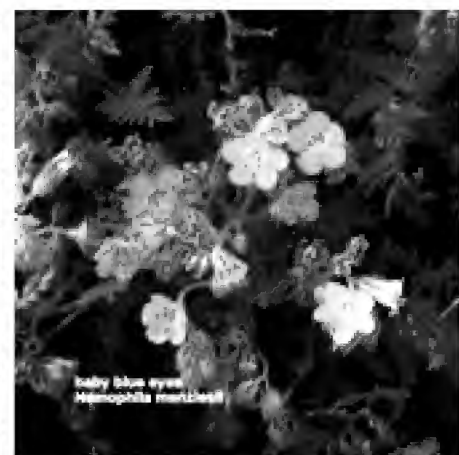
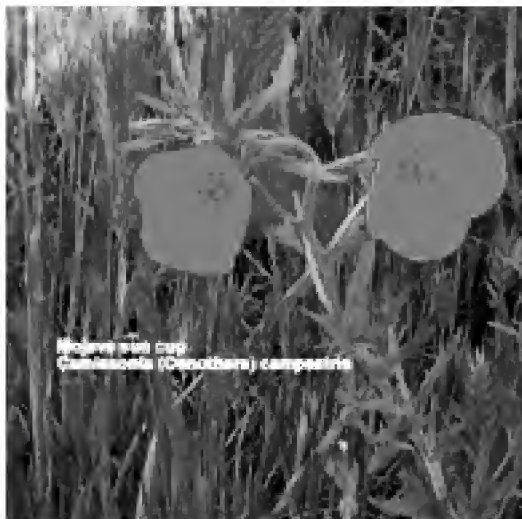
We were able to explore Pixley's newly acquired eastern half that has not been botanized. What a treat!!!

Atwell Island was our next stop, where American Land Conservancy is partnering with the Bureau of Land Management to acquire unprotected parcels and restore the sites to native habitat that can support threatened and endangered species. We ate lunch at Ceci's Mexican Restaurant where we could compare notes and just relax since we were so overwhelmed by what we saw this morning.

On our way to the Semitropic Ridge Preserve we stopped at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge's restoration site. This project is under the direction of Stephen Laymon and is a HUGE success. We were excited to see the utilization of native vegetation. The access road was lined with beautiful *Lasthenia* and there was atriplex as far as the eye could see.

Here are some of Don's pictures





These final pictures are from the Semitropic Ridge Preserve.
See how many of the listed beauties you recognize.



A big THANK YOU to Stephen and Pam for letting us take a peek into nature at its best!



EVENTS & FIELD TRIPS

As a reminder, always check the website to confirm if there are last-minute location changes, or other notices. We meet on the third Tuesday of most months, from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Meetings are most often at 1300 17th Street, at the Superintendent of Schools Building (1st Floor, with the tables). Our alternate meeting location is the University Square Building, at 2000 "K" Street. This building also has parking on the back side, and we meet on the 1st floor, too. Refreshments are served!

Dorie G.

May 14, Saturday - Kern River Parkway Festival 9:00AM to 6:00PM at Hart Park

May 17, Tuesday - Membership Meeting - 6-9PM Sierra Crest Trail presented by Glenn Harris (see page 1)

May 21, Saturday - Cedar Creek Wildflower Hike

Join us for a walk along a favorite trail with Pink Fairy Lanterns, *Calochortus amoenus*, 5 species of *Nemophila*, the only barberry native to Kern, *Berberis aquafolium*, and many other beautiful taxa on this level and lovely trail. We will look for the listed Greenhorn Fritillary, *Fritillaria brandegei*, although no guarantees, as its life is short, due to grazing. Ahem, there is a creek crossing at the first part of the trail, but we will get you across!

Meet at the Rite-Aid on Airport, at Olive at 8am for carpooling, leaving at 8:10am, at the latest. Please park away from their doors. We drive up Granite Road to HWY 155 at Glenville, then farther on, park at the sign for Cedar Creek Campground. We will start walking about 9:30, or when all who have RSVPed arrive. Bring water, snacks, lunch, flower books, cameras, binocs, and dress in layers and your boots. **Please RSVP** to Lucy Clark at lucyg391@gmail.com, by 8pm on Friday 20, if you plan to attend.

June 4 and 5 - CNPS Chapter Council Meeting (see page 4)

June 6, 7 Monday, Tuesday - Wildflower Survey from Walker Pass to Owens Peak

Trek along the Sierra Crest Trail with our May speaker, Glenn Harris, of the BLM, for 11 miles, perhaps with a packer along to carry our gear. This is a one night back pack trip, and we'll sleep at the base of Morris Peak. There are 6 special status plants along the way that we will be searching for, along with anything else that catches our eyes. Some of those listed are the Walker Pass Milkvetch, *Astragalus ertterae*, Charlotte's Phacelia, *Phacelia nashiana*, Ninemile Canyon Phacelia, *Phacelia novemmillensis*, Owen's Peak Lomatium, *Lomatium shevockii*.

More information will be given at our May 17th meeting by our leader, Glenn. Also, please check our website www.kerncnps.org for developing info. We are hoping some of the members of the Chapter Council will stay over to survey with us. If you intend to participate, for part of the trip, or to bail out midway, or to go all the way to Owen's Peak, please RSVP to Lucy Clark at lucyg391@gmail.com, and you will be contacted re time, equipment, food, transportation, etc.

June 21, Tuesday - Membership Meeting - 6 to 9 pm

6pm-Plant Identification/Keying

One of our most important, local, landscape photographers is Greg Iger. He has been taking pictures throughout Kern County environments for years. He has produced two beautiful "coffee-table" books, Buena Vista and Buena Vista II. His original volume is no longer available, but we will be able to offer copies of his second book at our meeting June 21st, in either hardbound, or paperback. He will also be signing them for us. These would make great gifts, or wish-lists of places to go see. The best part of the evening is that he will be giving us a presentation on different techniques for successful close-up photography, and will show us slides as examples, while he talks. Come join us at the start of summer, so you will be ready to practice taking photos of the plants you find during your summer outings. As usual, attendance is free to the public. Bring along friends. See you there!

(continued next page)

June 29, Wednesday- Field Trip - Rancheria Road North and Sunday Peak

Meet at the Rite-Aid on Airport, at Olive at 8am for carpooling, leaving at 8:10am, at the latest. Please park away from their doors. We drive up Granite Road to HWY 155 at Glenville, then on to the top at Alta Sierra (6700 feet elevation) for a drive north on Rancheria to the Sunday Peak trailhead. We hope to see Dogwood in bloom and many penstemons. The hike to the top (8300') and back is about 3 miles, with a 1000' elevation gain and loss. We will take it very slowly, as there are many flowering plants along this trail, as well as the "southernmost Shasta Red Fir in N. America." (Twisselmann, 1967) The views from the top, north and south along the Sierras, are the best this far south in the Sierra Nevada range. We plan to leave at 3-ish pm, or when your carload is ready.

Bring water, hat, sun screen, lunch, walking sticks, plant books, binocs, and wear layers of clothes. **Please RSVP** to Lucy Clark at lucyg391@gmail.com so we know how many and whom to expect at the carpooling location. Deadline for RSVPs is 8pm Friday, June 10.

July 3-9 - Golden Trout Wilderness Botanical Workshop (see www.KernCNPS.org or the January newsletter)

TENTATIVE, if interest is shown:

Last weekend of both July and August, we may have camping trips to Horse Meadow Camp Ground off the Sherman Pass Road. There is a small stream that has a changing array of species along its banks (Gentians in August!). Close by is Big Meadow, with more variety. Some might go on Friday afternoon to save spaces, and others may come early Saturday to camp or just for the day's trip. This is a trip that our chapter has irregularly taken since Jack Zaninovich led it way back when. We would like to revive it, as several long-time members have requested we do so.

If you would like to be contacted about these trips, please send your email address to Lucy Clark at lucyg391@gmail.com, NOW, before it slips your mind! You will be contacted if even 5 people are interested. (There will not be another Mimulus Memo before these trips.)

CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 3-5, 2011 BAKERSFIELD, CA

It is a chance to show off our Kern local plants and diverse field trips, as well as letting the State representatives know that we are more than just a hot spot on the freeway, with lots of oil wells.

Chapter Council is made up of the Presidents or Chapter Representatives for the thirty-plus different State Chapters. There will be a banquet, with guest speaker, as well as awards and great food. The whole community is welcome to attend the banquet, (as well as Chapter Members are welcome to sit-in on the meetings) and I hope we can use the event to celebrate together our Kern Chapter. Please mark the dates on your calendars. The meeting is June 3rd thru 5th, with the banquet on June 4th. Field trips will also be scheduled around that time, and all are welcome to attend those, too. The only event which has a cost will be the banquet, and the cost has not yet been established, but we will work hard to make it affordable. We accepted the responsibility for hosting this event last June, and have begun the planning process. If you are interested in working on one of the many committees needed for this to turn out a great event, please call me (Dorie, again). Hours and depth of participation are flexible. Please give it a try!

CONTACT INFO

president: Dorie Giragosian
dorengiragosian@peoplepc.com

past-president: Lucy Clark
lucyg391@gmail.com

newsletter/website: Stephen Cooley
mimulusmemo@bak.rr.com

Carrizo Plain National Monument Field Trip Notes

by Don and Yvonne Turkal

March 12, 2011



Denis Kearns, PhD (Kern CNPS member and BLM Botanist) hosted a field trip to the Carrizo Plain National Monument's botanical hot spots. (Second from left in the white hat)
We enjoyed Denis' expertise in spotting some great flowers, plus meeting Christina McNeal.

Christina McNeal is working on her master's under Dr. Polly Schiffman at Cal State Northridge. She is trying to figure out why there seems to be so little *Ephedra* recruitment in the Carrizo. We see mature shrubs, but very few small ones. She is gathering data on predation by ground squirrels, germination rates, and competition between *Ephedra* seedlings and non-native grasses (greenhouse studies).



Here are a few of the pictures taken by Don.



Wild Parsley *Lomatium utriculatum*



Hill Sun Cup *Camissonia gracilliflora*



Email us if you can correctly ID the plant below from Carrizo Plain (Picture taken in a dry creek wash). Please email tloveanimals@bak.rr.com and put “MM plant ID” in the subject line. Winner(s) will be recognized in the next issue of the Mimulus Memo.



Again, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to Denis Kearns for sharing his leadership and knowledge.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.KERNCNPS.org

HELLO TREASURE HUNTERS!

Here is the latest list of treasure hunts to join this spring and they are taking place all over California. If these don't fit your schedule let us know and we can work on putting you in touch with a group in your area that would like to go on a hunt. Also, if you have some experience with plant surveys we can send you out on your own. There is so much to see this year and it's time to start exploring-every hike can be a treasure hunt! RSVP to treasurehunt@cnps.org for more details.

Friday to Sunday, May 13-15th Silurian Hills, Valjean Hills and Avawatz Mountains- North of the Mojave National Preserve. We'll look for Desert Bear Poppy (*Arctomecon merriamii*), *Androstephium breviflorum*, Mojave Milkweed (*Asclepias nyctaginifolia*), *Camissonia boothii* and Purplenerve springparsley (*Cymopterus multinervatus*). Join us Friday afternoon/Friday night or even Saturday morning on this car camping trip.

Saturday and Sunday, May 21-22nd Trip led by Duncan Bell, 2010 Grand Prize winner of the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt into the unexplored areas.

Friday to Sunday, May 27-29th Trip to Kingston and Clark Mtns and the Ivanpah Valley We'll look for Mojave milkweed (*Asclepias nyctaginifolia*) and many others. Overnight camping trip, come Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.

STATEWIDE TRIPS:

Saturday, May 14th Pine Hill Preserve, near Folsom, CA. Help us re-locate some historic populations of *Packera layneae* (Layne's ragwort) and *Helianthum suffrutescens* (Bisbee Peak rush-rose), as well as search for new populations in this botanical preserve.

Mid-May (follow-up email will give a firm date) Lynch Canyon, Solano County. Join the Solano Land Trust and help them perform an initial survey of their Lynch Canyon site for rare species. We'll be on the lookout for *Calochortus pulchellus* (Mt. Diablo fairy-lantern), *Balsamorhiza macrolepis* var. *macrolepis* (big-scale balsamroot), *Sidalcea hickmanii* ssp. *viridis* (Marin checkerbloom) and others.

Mid-May (follow-up email will give a firm date) Sonoma Land Trust, Sonoma County. Join the Sonoma Land Trust and help search for rare plants on one of their properties just north of Sonoma.

Sunday, May 22nd Join the Mt. Lassen Chapter of the CNPS to visit a part of the Mendocino National Forest called Salt Creek Saddle and nearby China Gulch, where we'll be looking for 8 different rare species.

Saturday and Sunday, June 11th and 12th Walker Ridge, Lake-Colusa County boundary. About 30 rare plants occur on this site proposed for a wind-power generation facility. CNPS and other organizations have petitioned the BLM to designate this site as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Help us protect it by gathering more accurate information about the rare species found in this area.

For photos and more info. you can visit:

www.rareplanttreasurehunt.blogspot.com or www.flickr.com/photos/rareplanttreasurehunt/.

Danny Slakey, Botanist/Project Coordinator, Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, California Native Plant Society
dslakey@cnps.org



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

THE MISSION OF CNPS IS TO CONSERVE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS AND THEIR NATURAL HABITATS, AND INCREASE UNDERSTANDING, APPRECIATION, AND HORTICULTURAL USE OF NATIVE PLANTS. OUR VISION INCLUDES A FUTURE WHERE:

Californians actively support the Society's mission, which is accomplished through education, plant science, advocacy, land stewardship and native plant gardening.

Californians value native plants, plant communities and healthy ecosystems as essential to the well being of all living things.

Californians can experience native plants throughout the state, in natural environments and human-made landscapes.

California's extensive and interconnected natural habitats are preserved.

CNPS IS THE LEADER FOR PROVIDING RELIABLE INFORMATION ON CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS AND PLANT CONSERVATION. COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S FLORA AND VEGETATION COMMUNITIES IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR CONSERVATION AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

CNPS'S LEADERSHIP INFLUENCES PERSONAL ETHICS AND ACTIONS,
AS WELL AS PUBLIC POLICY FOR NATIVE PLANT PROTECTION.

INTERNET EDITION

CNPS – Kern County Chapter
% Stephen Cooley, Editor
minulismemo@bak.rr.com